

Arts in the Parks

Fort Harrison State Park Property Profile

Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2982.htm>

Key Messages/Stories:

- Ft. Harrison State Park contains the last unfragmented woodland tract in Central Indiana greater than 100 acres. This large high quality and relatively undisturbed forest block provides the ecological foundation in which the federally-endangered Indiana bat, rare plant species, great blue heron rookeries, sensitive fish, neotropical bird migrants and other valuable resources exist.
- Cultural History: Fort Benjamin Harrison was originally built to maintain a functional U.S. Army installation near downtown Indianapolis. It served as a major training role in every major military conflict of the 20th Century, including WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. Indiana's Civilian Conservation Corps was headquartered out of Ft. Benjamin Harrison from 1933-1941. Following the end of that program, and during WWII, Prisoners of War were held in Camp Glenn (now the park office, nature center, and Museum of 20th Century Warfare). Camp Glenn was originally built for the Civilian Military Training Camp, helping to train and outfit civilians for military service.
- Natural Heritage: Wetlands are an important part of the Fort environment. They help maintain water quality and plant diversity, and provide habitat for wildlife. An unusual number of Neotropical birds use the unfragmented woodlands of Ft. Harrison in their annual migration flights, attracting birders from across the state.

Top Five Things to Do:

- Fish in Lake Delaware
- Take the dogs to the dog park
- Walk the Fall Creek Trail and Harrison Trace Trail
- Go golfing at the Fort Golf Course
- Bike/Mountain bike ride

Lodging: Fort Harrison Inn located nearby, as well as some rental homes near the Garrison Golf Resort

General visitor profile: Day use hikers, dog-walkers, bikers; school groups in spring/summer; scout and other groups for volunteer service.

Potential arts venues:

- Camp Glenn Recreation Buildings: Fully enclosed, capacity 40, full kitchen, bathrooms
- Cherry Tree, Delaware, Reddick and Sycamore Shelter: Open shelters, capacity 50-60 inside, electricity, bathrooms nearby.

Visitation in FY2014: 940,245



Nearby Communities: Indianapolis (North East side communities of Lawrence, Castleton)

Please email questions to Artsintheparks@dnr.IN.gov.

